

Chairperson: Jason Bashura  
Vice Chairperson: Audra Nixon  
Executive Secretary: Maura Rossman, M.D., Antigone Vickery  
Recorded By: Kandyce Hopkins

## **HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

September 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** October 26, 2021  
**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Virtual - WebEx

**Members Present:** Audra Nixon; Melinda Kantsiper; Stacey Bisnette; Judith Chernoff; Jason Bashura; Paul Nagy; Matt Reber; Anthony Wisniewski; Erica Martin

**Members Excused:** Jill RachBeisel, Emily Greenberger

**Staff:** Maura Rossman, Health Officer; Antigone Vickery, Deputy Health Officer; Kandyce Hopkins, Management Associate

**Guest:** Chimezie Ndukuba, Lois Joellenbeck, Christine Barbour, Navya Kunadi, Linda Ashburn

**Public:** N/A

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action / Follow-up
<b>Welcome and Call to Order</b>	The meeting was called to order by J. Bashura at 6:05 p.m.	
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	J. Bashura proposed September's minutes for approval. Motion to approve September's minutes by J. Chernoff, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by S. Bisnette. Minutes approved unanimously.	
<b>Special Guest: Navya Kunadi (High School Student)</b>	Ms. Kunadi has expressed interest in pursuing a career in medicine and would like to explore any possible opportunities with the Board of Health. She believes that if more students are made more aware of the opportunities, they can do their part in making a difference in their communities. Ms. Kunadi has proposed that a board member speak with local students to raise awareness & forge a connection with the youth in the community.	The Board plans to create a special project to connect with the youth & students of Howard County. Dr.
<b>Committee Reports</b>	<p><b>Horizon/Diabetes/Equity Taskforce-</b> The task force made some very specific health recommendations, which Ms. Nixon proposes that the board should review the recommendations of this task force, prioritize the initiatives and endorse what is most important.</p> <p><b>Nominations Committee-</b> The Nominations Committee is going to meet to discuss if the Board should reconsider the candidates whose resumes were previously reviewed and submitted to the County, as well as continuing to field new nominations.</p> <p><b>BOH Strategic Plan and Retreat Committee-</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Youth Task Force-</b> N/A</p>	Kantsiper expressed interest in this initiative.  The Board will look into having the county post inquiries for new nominees through November 30 <sup>th</sup> & revisit those nominations in January.

<b>Presentation</b> <b>(Linda Ashburn,</b> <b>Lois Joellenbeck,</b> <b>Christine</b> <b>Barbour,</b> <b>Chimezie</b> <b>Ndukuba)</b>	<p><b>Strategic Plan:</b> The Bureau of Assessment, Planning &amp; Communications is currently developing a 3-year strategic plan &amp; HCHD is seeking The Board’s feedback. This will be a 3-year strategic plan as opposed to a 5-year plan. Demographic data and background were presented and a facilitated discussion by Ms. Barbour was conducted including results of community forums. A SWOT analysis was developed by members with the following</p> <p><b>Threats:</b> decreased funding, aging workforce/ burnout/turnover, political changes, language barriers, lack of coordination with other agencies.</p> <p><b>Opportunities:</b> establishing faith-based initiatives, engaging and developing trust with residents, engaging the school system &amp; the youth population, taking steps to rejuvenate the workforce--connecting with citizens through mobile health &amp; telemedicine, diversifying languages, and partnering with stakeholders who share priorities.</p>	No Action
<b>Old Business</b>	<p><b>Vaccination Efforts:</b> A. Wisniewski shared his thoughts regarding the concept of a “vaccine passport” that he had previously presented during September’s meeting. In terms of the logistics to ramp up the operation, it would largely be volunteer based with partnerships with Howard county government, senior centers, volunteers, well as volunteer fire department locations throughout Howard County, and potentially the Maryland military department.</p>	
<b>HO Report</b>	<p>Among those who are eligible, 12 years old and up in Howard county, 94.7% have received at least 1 dose and 88.2% are fully vaccinated. Booster shot are now available. The 5 to 11-year-old vaccine is slated to be authorized in the early November. Regarding the work force challenges, HCHD is not the only employer that is seeing a significant turnover in staff. In keeping up with that, there has been advocacy at the state level to make the state employee benefit package, including salary, more competitive with the private sector to maintain recruitment and retain the needed work force.</p>	
<b>New Business</b>	<p>Deferred due to time constraints</p>	
<b>Board Chair’s Report</b>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.</p> <p><b>Next meeting is November 23, 2021.</b></p>	

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